

FORUM FACTORUM

DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE II VOLUME XLI



MEET YOUR MASSJCL
OFFICERS [6-7]

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THE OFFICIAL MASSJCL NEWSLETTER

editor's note

Hello, Massachusetts!

You're in the George Sherman Union building at Boston University, surrounded by friends, smiling and excited to spend a day devoted to the Classics. That, at least, is the first scenario that comes to my mind. Wherever you are, I hope the school year is going well for you and you are ready for the rest of this fun-filled year in the JCL. To recap on some of this year's events, here's the second issue of the *Forum Factorum*. In addition to reading about Kickoff, Certamen, and an unconventional state JCL, you will "meet" your MassJCL officers. I, today, forever, and always, am looking forward to meeting some of you!

One last note: if you want to write an article or editorial, or want to have some of your creative work featured in the *Forum Factorum*, do not hesitate to ask me today. I am amazed by your work and look forward to receiving it!

Ex animo,

Najla Nassar

welcome to classics day!

Salvete, MassJCL!

How is everyone? I hope all is going well with the new school year. My name is Allyson Ping, and I am the 2015-2016 MassJCL 1st VP. Welcome to Classics Day 2015! The theme of this year's Classics Day is "A Day in the Life: the Classical World." This theme focuses on ancient culture, arts, religion, and customs, ranging from the Roman Empire to early Islamic tradition to the Han Dynasty in China. It is my hope that you feel like a true Classical citizen today as you attend workshops and participate in the skit contest. As you enjoy Classics Day, don't forget to take tons of pictures and tweet MassJCL on twitter [@weareMAJCL] or tag us on instagram [@massjcl]! Also, do not forget that Boston University was kind enough to let us use their space today, so make sure to treat everything respectfully and clean up after yourselves. I hope you enjoy this year's Classics Day and are influenced by the passion, knowledge, and dedication of some of our presenters today!

E Corde,

Allyson Ping



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+OVERVIEW



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
WHITNEY'S FARM IN CHESHIRE
FOR GENEROUSLY DONATING
PUMPKINS FOR KICKOFF

On October 17, JCL members from across the state attended the annual Kickoff event at Mount Greylock Regional High School. In the morning, everyone gathered for the first general assembly to watch the officer skit, "Outside-in," and a dramatic narration of classical myths by Mount Greylock's very own history teacher, Andrew Gibson. Throughout the day there were Certamen scrimmages, worm and hula hoop contests, officer workshops, trips to the Williams College Museum of Art, and, a new rendition, pumpkin painting. In the afternoon, everyone gathered again on the lawn to witness the catapult contest.

Mount Greylock began its catapult preparations one week earlier. Every year, we take our catapult out of storage and reassemble it, making slight adjustments as needed. Our team spent countless hours on the catapult, striving for that first place certificate.

On the day of the contest, we pulled the pin, and the catapult sent the beanball lying about the field. Everyone held his or her breath as the distance was measured. As the scores were added up, we were elated—to learn our catapult had taken first place. ■

-ADLY TEMPLETON, MTG '16

CERTAMEN:

northeastern elite

BY GRETA GAFFIN, BLS '16

Ah, *Certamen*. The thrill of the hyperbuzz; the anxiety of the translation bonus question; the smug glory of winning by five points. A true Certamener studies their Classics harder than they study for their classes.

Well, I am not a true Certamener. But that doesn't mean I can't have fun playing it.

This year I went to Northeastern Certamen for the first time, because why not? I wasn't originally intending on playing, but my friend Clair Fu convinced me to join her, and then we convinced our friend Ryan Browne to join us. One eighth grader, one ninth grader, and one senior with three weeks of Greek and no knowledge of Latin other than the word "goose"? Terrific.

Our first game was against the charmingly named *Haec Nuces*, who, yes, were carry-

ing around a jar of peanuts. I successfully managed to answer one question, the one that was inexplicably about the Hulk. Next we played a team from Boston Latin School. The very charming Hanna Seariac was scorekeeper and the even more charming Daniel Sherman, who insisted on reading many of the questions in a British (?) accent, was moderator. I'm not sure if it's normal Certamen practice to allow the moderator to give points at their discretion, but he did, so I got five points for cackling. It's really my only skill.

If you're wondering "why would she be cackling at all?", it's because there were multiple Dramatic Interpretation questions. That particular one was about Harry Potter. Later, another team we were playing got a set of bonuses about Narcissus. Vasilije Dobrosavljevic very dramatically ripped off his jacket and shirt and unbuckled his belt while beating his chest to

demonstrate the despair Narcissus felt upon learning that he could not kiss his reflection. Then: the final round. Three teams. *Haec Nuces* still had their jar of peanuts. We voted for moderator; Daniel Sherman won by an overwhelming margin. Each team was well matched; there was no obvious leader.

And then: another set of dramatic interpretation bonuses-*Titanic*. *Haec Nuces* was up. They did a very good rendition of three scenes; the one where they're holding onto each other on the bow, the one where Rose asks Jack to paint her like one of his Gallic girls, and the tragic final scene where he falls into the sea.

Even though my team came in last place, it was still a good time, and everyone who didn't go this year should definitely go next year. ■



This year marked the start of my career as an Advanced Certamen player. The first tournament of this school year, and my first tournament in the Advanced division, was the Yale Certamen Invitational, which took place on November 7th.

Arriving at Yale was a nerve-racking experience, even though I competed there in many previous years. Yale Certamen is considered to be one of the most difficult and competitive tournaments, and there were many extremely renowned teams in attendance. Even teams from far away, like Texas and Florida, were present at the tournament. Nevertheless, my teammates, Hanna Seariac, Anton Zverev, and Shreya Murthy, were all confident in our ability to play our best against such intimidating teams.

After the first three rounds, my team had only managed to score 145 points. This

put us in tenth place after the preliminary rounds, which, unfortunately, meant that we did not make the semifinals. Although we had hoped to perform better, it was okay because we knew that we fought our best against some extremely competitive teams. We opted to watch a semifinal round, which turned out to be an incredibly close match between Boston Latin School and Texas.

In the end, for Novice, Oak Hall from Florida took the win, with Basis DC and Boston Latin School coming in second and third, respectively. In the Intermediate division, St. Stephens from Florida won, Boston Latin School came in second, and Northside College Prep from Illinois came in third. Finally, for Advanced, BLS came out on top, with a one-man team from Texas in second and Oak Hall in third. The competition this year was very fierce, and I look forward to coming back next year. ■

meet your officers

questions:

1. FAVORITE PART OF OFFICE
2. MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM FIRST STATE CONVENTION
3. FAVORITE LATIN DERIVATIVE
4. ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AT A DIFFERENT TIME PERIOD—WHERE+WHEN
5. SUPERSTITION



LINDA
QIN



ALLYSON
PING

1. MEETING ALL OF YOU JCLERS AND GETTING INTO DEEP DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CLASSICS.

2. TAKING PART IN CERTAMEN AND ALL THE PRACTICE--AND NERVOUSNESS--THAT CAME WITH IT.

3. FLOCCINAUCINHILIPIFICATION.

4. THE AZTEC EMPIRE AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS GLORY.

5. IT'S NOT REALLY A SUPERSTITION, BUT I DON'T LIKE TO WALK ON CRACKS IN THE SIDEWALK.



VEENA
LAGARE

1. WELL, I DON'T HAVE AN OFFICE; BUT IF I DID HAVE ONE, IT WOULD BE MY MINI FRIDGE-- BECAUSE I WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE ONE.

2. SPIRIT PARADE AND SCREAMING MY LUNGS OUT. ALL WORTH IT!

3. VENA.

4. EVERYWHERE, LATE 1840S; WHEN CAMERA FIRST CAME OUT.

5. CROSSING MY FINGERS FOR LUCK.



ANUSHA
KULKARNI

1. I LIKE WRITING CHECKS BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE AN ADULT WHO HAS HER LIFE TOGETHER.

2. NOVICE CERTAMEN FINALS: WHILE MY TEAM DIDN'T WIN (WE GOT 2ND, BLS GOT 1ST), I WAS STILL REALLY PROUD OF MY PERFORMANCE.

3. NICE.

4. LONDON, 1963 (WHEN DOCTOR WHO STARTED).

5. NONE, REALLY. I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUPERSTITIONS.

1st VP

1. PUBLICITY AND EVENT PLANNING! AND GETTING TO WORK WITH ALL THE LOCAL VPS. OH WAIT...THAT'S ALL OF IT.

2. NOT MY FIRST, BUT I WAS LATE TO A CERTAMEN FINALS ROUND ONCE UPON A TIME...

3. NICE.

4. ROME BECAUSE IT'S HOME NO MATTER THE TIME PERIOD.

5. I HAVE A LOT REGARDING LUCK...LIKE IF YOU WEAR SOMETHING WHITE IN YOUR HAIR FOR A LONG TIME YOU'LL HAVE BAD LUCK.



DANIEL
SHERMAN

1. FINDING INSPIRATIONAL LATIN QUOTES.

2. WATCHING A LYCAENA PHLEAS BUTTERFLY FOR 19 MINUTES STRAIGHT.

3. CRUCIFEROUS.

4. SURSEY 30 YEARS AGO--IT'S A VOLCANIC ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF ICELAND.

5. EATING HEALTHY FOOD CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHY.

SECRETARY



DALENA
NGUYEN

1. BEING INVOLVED ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL: RELAYING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND GOING OVER AMENDMENTS.

2. DEFINITELY THE PIZZA PARTY THAT MY CLASSMATES AND I HAD IN THE HOTEL HALLWAY.

3. DUPE.

4. ITALY DURING THE RENAISSANCE.

5. I'M NOT REALLY SURE THIS CAN COUNT AS A SUPERSTITION COMPLETELY, BUT I GUESS BRINGING BROWNIES TO JCL EVENTS.

pres

2nd VP

treasurer

2nd VP



EMILY
BONNICI

1. GETTING TO CAPTURE MEMORIES.
2. THE OFFICER SKIT OF THE 7 TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU MEET AT CONVENTION.
3. JUXTAPOSE.
4. NEW YORK AROUND THE 50s.
5. THE SCOTTISH PLAY IS CURSED AND SHOULD NEVER BE MENTIONED IN THE THEATRE.



ANUSHREE
IYENGAR

1. CODING THE WEBSITE, OBVIOUSLY!!! I LOVE THE FEELING OF CREATING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.
2. PLAYING POKER UNDER THE STAIRCASE AT HOLIDAY INN LATE AT NIGHT, EXCEPT WE GAMBLED SKITTLES INSTEAD OF MONEY.
3. COMPANION.
4. FLORENCE DURING THE RENAISSANCE.
5. I KNOCK ON WOOD TO PREVENT MY LUCK FROM GOING BAD.

Editor

NAJLA
NASSAR

1. WHAT IS THERE NOT TO LOVE?
2. EXPLORING BARNSTABLE WITH MY BEST FRIEND: EXPERIENCING EVERYTHING FOR THE FIRST TIME.
3. AMELIORATE.
4. PARIS DURING THE 20s.
5. I OPEN ALL THE CLOSED DOORS IN THE HOUSE BECAUSE I'VE WATCHED TOO MANY CRIME SHOWS.

FOR MORE OFFICER
INTERVIEWS AND
INFORMATION, VISIT
MASSJCL.ORG

Salvete, MassJCLers!

I am Dalena Nguyen, your Parliamentarian for this year, and I want to talk about the importance of running for office. I know that many of you are asking "Why should I run for office?" Well, there are some benefits to running for an office at MassJCL.

The first one that's pretty obvious is that you have a chance to become an officer. It may seem scary to run against the bigger schools for an office, but everyone has the potential. If you start thinking about running for office now, then you can start planning your campaign and the way you would present yourself to others. The second one is how your school receives ex-

tra points if you give running for office a shot. For each person that runs for an office, your school earns one point, with 3 being the maximum.

If you want to see the officers in action to make up your mind, then feel free to attend one of our board meetings and talk to us. After all, who is there that can give you tips and advice about an office you're interested in? Besides talking to us, I'm actually planning to upload a surprise in the near future where you can hear about the experiences of last year's officers and get some tips on running an effective campaign.

Hope you're more motivated to run for office. If you want to talk with me, just email

me; I don't mind responding to any curious questions. I can't wait to see your forms for running for office. If you already decided at this point to run for office with your sponsor's approval, then feel free to send me your form.

Ab Imo Pectore,

Dalena Nguyen

MassJCL 2015-2016
Parliamentarian

officer update

P.S. The deadline for sending amendments to me is coming soon. If you have an amendment, please send it by January 29th.

+PERSPECTIVE



THE CLASSICAL MAGNET JCL AT KICKOFF

The Story Behind The Connecticut JCL

In most states, being a member of JCL is two experiences. There's the experience of being a member of your school's chapter, and then there's being a member of your state JCL. There's a board of officers for each school, and then there's a board of officers that presides over the state.

In Connecticut, things are a little bit different. Our state is technically home to many JCL chapters, but only one is ever truly active. The Classical Magnet JCL is the only chapter in our small state that elects officers, attends events, or puts on events. This is due in no small part to the teacher who runs our chapter, Mr. James Pezzulo. Mr. Pezzulo is always pushing the officers to expand what our chapter does. He's also constantly reaching out to the other CTJCL

chapters, even if they don't reply. It's thanks to him that the Classical Magnet/CT JCL has been exponentially growing over the years, and being a part of it has truly made my high school experience that much better.

In the past two years alone, I've been to four JCL events, including National Convention. I've gone from a member who was just involved in setting up for bake sales to the CTJCL Publications Editor. I've known three presidents, and each one of them has encouraged me to do more and give back to the organization that's offered me so much over the years. As my time in high school comes to an end, I've been looking back on everything I've done and the choices I've made. And if I could do it all over again, there's no question in my mind that I would commit to JCL all over again. ■

-JACK DINEEN, CM '16

horoscopes

.....

{aries}

MARCH 21-
APRIL 19

Nothing seems to go your way, and things seem to get in your way. You need to take back control by taking the bull by the horns.

MAY 21-
JUNE 20

{gemini}

Seems like something in your life is making you sad. Try to be positive and in good company of your friends to feel better and pinch those bad feelings away.

{leo}

JULY 23-
AUGUST 22

Don't let people treat you like a maiden in distress. You are strong and independent. Show your inner strength.

No need to act sheepish about whatever embarrassing thing happened. Your friends may be laughing, but it's not at you. Don't take offense and try to laugh along to feel better.

APRIL 20-
MAY 20

{taurus}

Feeling a bit lonely in your life? Don't worry, you'll find that special person since your lives are inter-twined.

{cancer}

You may feel guilty and responsible for a recent event in your life, but it's totally not your fault. Like Simba, you have to move on and Hakuna Mutata.

AUGUST 23-
SEPTEMBER 22

{virgo}

{libra}

SEPTEMBER 23-

OCTOBER 22

Something seems to be bugging you. Time to talk to your loyal friend. The quicker you can clear your mind the better you'll feel.

Decisions, decisions. Your distress is so off the scale that it interferes with life! You need to weigh what's important and let go of what's not.

scorpio}

OCTOBER 23-

NOVEMBER 21

{sagittarius}

NOVEMBER 22-

DECEMBER 21

People criticizing you for acting like a kid? Forget about what they said. Your child-like curiosity and enthusiasm is the highlight of many people's day.

Your experience and wisdom are needed. Be like the great Chiron and guide those in need to their target.

DECEMBER 22-

JANUARY 19

capricorn}

{aquarius}

JANUARY 20-

FEBRUARY 18

Hmm...
You feel like something fishy is going on in your life. Your instincts are your best friend. Trust yourself and prepare for what may happen.

Uh oh, People are crying a river. Be a kind water bearer: gather those tears of sadness and throw them into the sky as rainbows of happiness for them.

pisces}

FEBRUARY 19-

MARCH 20





JCLERS IN ITALY

POETRY

Winter

Farewell little Persephone
 Leaving the flowers and earth
 For Lord Hades's arms
 Away from your mother of birth.

Gentle rain becomes bitter snow
 As your poor mother weeps.
 Green becomes brown and white
 As grief in her heart seeps.

But not all is dead in the world
 For beneath the little ferns,
 Is the seed of hope, mourning Demeter,
 Where your springful daughter returns. ■

-DALENA NGUYEN, BLA '16



ARTS AREA

LINDA'S
CHALLENGE
OF THE DAY



A WALK
THROUGH
YALE

CRED: COHEN

HOO LA HOOPIN'



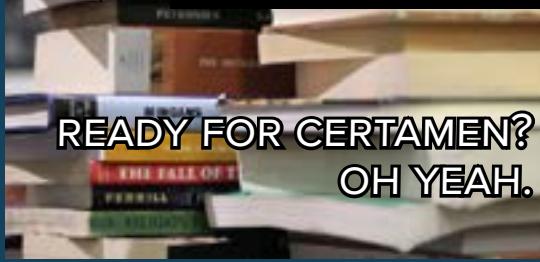
UBI CONCORDIA,
IBI VICTORIA

CRED: BURNETT

MASSJCL MOMENTS

CRED: BURNETT

READY FOR CERTAMEN?
OH YEAH.



WAITING FOR THE MODERATOR
TO GET TO THE VERB



DILIGENT PICTURE DRAWING
@ THE KICKOFF EDITOR AND
HISTORIAN WORKSHOP



BLACK FIGURE
PUMPKINS



CRED: BURNETT

GRATIAS MAXIMAS

FROM THE MASSJCL

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FOR YOUR GENEROUS WORK ON THIS ISSUE

+

merimax web

FOR DONATING STATE AND LOCAL WEBSITES

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